

## WE CLAIM:

5 *Sub A1*

1. A solidified hollow article made from at least one thermoplastic composition, said thermoplastic composition comprising:
  - (A) a thermoplastic polymeric matrix, and
  - (B) short aramid fibers.
2. The article of claim 1, wherein the short aramid fibers have a diameter of less than or equal to 150 microns, an average length distribution of 0.1 to 8 mm, and a Canadian Standard Freeness of less than or equal to 500 ml.
3. The article of claim 1, wherein the short aramid fibers are present in an amount of about 0.01 weight % to about 30 weight %, relative to the weight of the thermoplastic polymeric matrix and the short aramid fibers only in the thermoplastic composition.
4. The article of claim 3, wherein the short aramid fibers are present in an amount of about 0.1 weight % to about 25 weight %, relative to the weight of the thermoplastic polymeric matrix and the short aramid fibers only in the thermoplastic composition.
5. The article of claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic polymeric matrix comprises at least one thermoplastic polymer including homopolymers, copolymers and terpolymers of polyacetals, polyamides, polyesters, polyurethanes, polyethylene terephthalate glycols, polycarbonates, polyvinyl chlorides, polyacrylates, poly(phenylene ethers), polysulfones, polyolefins, polystyrenes, ethylene tetrafluoroethylene, copolymers of esters and ethers, copolymers of styrene and acrylonitrile, copolymers of acrylonitrile butadiene styrene, blends of polypropylene and ethylene propylene diene monomer, rubber modified thermoplastic polymers, and mixtures or blends thereof.

6. The article of claim 5, wherein the thermoplastic polymer includes homopolymers and copolymers of polyacetals, polyamides, polyesters, polyolefins and mixtures or blends thereof.

5 7. The article of claim 1, wherein the article has a length greater than or equal to 40 cm.

8. The article of claim 1, wherein the article has a length greater than or equal to 1 meter.

10 9. The article of claim 1, wherein the article comprises a blow molded article, a co-extruded blow molded article, or a sequential co-extruded blow molded article.

15 10. The article of claim 1, wherein the article is a solid preform.

11. A process for making a solidified hollow article comprising the steps of :  
providing at least one thermoplastic composition comprising a thermoplastic polymeric matrix and short aramid fibers; and  
forming a solidified hollow article from the thermoplastic composition.

20 12. The process of claim 11, wherein said forming step comprises the steps of :  
obtaining a preform comprising the thermoplastic composition of said providing step,  
25 inserting the preform into a mold, and  
blowing a gas through the preform to form a solidified hollow article.

13. The process of claim 11, wherein said forming step comprises blow molding, co-extrusion blow molding, or sequential co-extrusion blow molding to form the solidified hollow article.

30 14. The process of claim 11, wherein the solidified hollow article has a length greater than or equal to 40 cm.

15. The process of claim 11, wherein the solidified hollow article has a length greater than or equal to 1 meter.

5 16. A solidified hollow article made from a blend comprising:  
a thermoplastic composition comprising  
(A) a thermoplastic polymeric matrix; and  
(B) short aramid fibers.

10 17. A method of improving the melt strength of a polymer composition comprising the step of:  
adding an effective amount of short aramid fibers to the polymer composition.

15 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the polymer composition comprises a thermoplastic polymeric matrix, a thermoplastic composition, or a thermoplastic polymer.

19. A method for making a blow molded solidified hollow article from a polymer composition which is not suitable for blow molding, said method comprising the steps of:  
obtaining a polymer composition that is not suitable for blow molding;  
adding short aramid fibers to said polymer composition; and  
forming a blow molded solidified hollow article from the polymer composition having the short aramid fibers added thereto.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the polymer composition comprises a thermoplastic polymeric matrix, a thermoplastic composition, or a thermoplastic polymer.